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series is intruded by a great variety of porphyritic rocks and is overlaid by sandstones and conglomerates forming a series from 2,000 to 3,000 feet thick, which is in the main flat lying and is not greatly deformed. This group of rocks is not known to contain fossils, but its relationship to rocks of known age is said to have been made out in Venezuela where it is regarded as Cretaceous. The schists and the sandstones are intruded by diabase which the author regards as a source of much of the gold. The relatively fresh rock carries from a trace to 17 grains per ton.

Owing to the humid climate and tropical vegetation the rocks have weathered to great depth. Laterite, the residual product of the basic rocks, is known to be as much as 100 feet deep in some places. In the laterite there is a marked concentration of iron and clay and locally of gold, which it carries in amounts varying from traces to 15 pennyweights per ton. The laterite also contains irregular masses of rich quartzose ore which is presumably altered vein-stuff, but such masses are not abundant and the conclusion is that not more than 10 per cent. of the placers have originated from quartzose ores. The principal source is regarded as the basic igneous rocks in which, through decomposition to laterite, there has been a marked concentration *in situ*. Further concentration has taken place in some of the stream gravels. From the descriptions given, the laterite areas seem to offer attractive fields for prospecting for large low-grade gold deposits which should be very economically worked.

W. H. E.

The World's Gold. By L. DE LAUNAY, with an Introduction by C. A. CONANT. Translated by ORLANDO CYPRIAN WILLIAMS. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

This work is arranged for the banker and economist, rather than the geologist and metallurgist. The geographic distribution and the extraction of gold are treated in an interesting and readable manner, but the future production of gold is obviously the subject which is of greatest importance. Statistics are given which show that the gold production of the world has steadily increased since the Boer war, reaching over four hundred million dollars in 1906. The writer concludes that the next fifteen years will probably be marked by a great production of gold, which will afterward decline. He concludes, however, that the supply will be adequate for the purposes required, owing to a more general use of instruments of credit.

W. H. E.